



Press Release



Programme announced for Louvre Abu Dhabi and NYU Abu Dhabi *Reframing Museums* symposium

16 – 18 November 2020

- *Reframing Museums is a first-of-its-kind, virtual symposium to address new challenges and responsibilities facing museums today*
- *The symposium will see a daily programme of roundtable panel discussions, break-out groups, and keynotes from global leaders such as **HE Noura Al Kaabi** (Minister of Culture and Youth, UAE), **HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak** (Chairman, Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi), **Jean-Luc Martinez** (Director of Musée du Louvre, France), **Kwame Anthony Appiah** (Professor of Philosophy and Law, New York University and NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE/USA), **Krzysztof Pomian** (historian and philosopher) and **Nujoom Al Ghanem** (poet and film director)*
- *The programme was developed by a curatorial committee and informed by key learnings gleaned from pre-symposium workshops titled “Unframed Voices.” Hosted by both institutions, the workshops were conceived to enable active engagement from a broad range of voices before and during the symposium*
- *The three-day symposium is free and open to the public. The full programme and registration are available on the Reframing Museums [website](#)*

Abu Dhabi, 02 November 2020: Louvre Abu Dhabi and NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) announced today the detailed three-day programme for the virtual symposium, *Reframing Museums*, which is open to the public and taking place from 16 – 18 November 2020.

Reframing Museums symposium attendees will hear from global scholars, academics, artists, and international museum experts as they address the new responsibilities and challenges facing museums today and showcase innovative opportunities for the sector. The programme is built around the three institutional pillars that have traditionally defined museums: **The Collection** (16 November); **Building/Site and People, part I** (17 November); and **Building/Site and People, part II** (18 November). The full programme is available on the *Reframing Museums* [website](#).

Manuel Rabaté, Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi, emphasised the array of topics that will be explored during the Symposium and the breadth of knowledge and experience by the institutions represented: “As a young museum in an entrepreneurial city, we are proud to be able to (virtually) host these critical discussions at such a pivotal moment. Now is the time to

This material is distributed by Brunswick Group LLC on behalf of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi. Additional information is on file with the FARA Registration Unit of the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

discuss how to forge ahead with new models to engage audiences and present our collections. We certainly won't find all answers to these complex challenges in three days, but it is vital to seek constant dialogue among global peers and to continue to exchange experiences and ideas for an agile, sustainable, and relevant museum sector."

Mariët Westermann, Vice Chancellor of New York University Abu Dhabi commented, "Universities and museums hold unique and related roles in civil society as institutions of learning and discovery. Through this symposium, we seek to initiate a more hopeful and inclusive conversation among museum professionals, scholars, artists, and others about the relevance and future of museums. This is the right time to think about how to transform traditional definitions of the museum, to ask what and who museums are for, and to reimagine how they can build connection and community."

Through a pre-symposium series called "Unframed Voices," museum professionals from across the globe gathered virtually to revisit the three pillars and define the key questions they – as museum professionals and artists – would like to see addressed during the symposium.

The programme format includes roundtable discussions, keynote speeches, and presented case studies followed by regular opportunities for attendees to network in break-out sessions and to continue discussions in a Virtual World Café.

All roundtable discussions, keynotes, and Virtual World Café conversations are free and open to the public to attend through advance registration. The discussions will be held in English with live translation in Arabic and French as well as live captioning in English.

The daily symposium programming runs 16 – 17 November from 11:00 – 21:00 GST, and 18 November from 14:30 – 18:30 GST.

Advance registration, open through 15 November 2020, is required via the website [here](#). Please note that the number of attendees at the Virtual World Café discussions is limited and registration closes on 11 November 2020.

Programme overview

Full three-day programme attached and available on the symposium [website](#)

Day 1 – The Collection

- *Opening keynote* by **HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak**, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT-Abu Dhabi) and member of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi, UAE. Followed by *welcome remarks* by **Manuel Rabaté**, Director of LAD, and **Mariët Westermann**, Vice Chancellor of NYU Abu Dhabi.
- *"From acquisition to storytelling: what does the future hold for museum collections?"* roundtable, with **Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi** (President and Director of the Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE), **Maria Balshaw CBE** (Director of Tate, UK), **Michael Govan** (CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director of Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), USA),

This material is distributed by Brunswick Group LLC on behalf of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi. Additional information is on file with the FARA Registration Unit of the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Mikhail Piotrovsky (Director of The State Hermitage Museum, Russia), and **Souraya Noujaim** (Scientific, Curatorial and Collections Management Director at Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE). Session moderated by **Mina Al-Oraibi** (Editor in Chief of *The National* newspaper, UAE).

- “*Re-envisioning the museum together*” keynote by **Kwame Anthony Appiah**, Professor of Philosophy and Law at New York University (NYU), USA and NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- “*The future of exhibitions in a post-pandemic world*” roundtable with **Chris Dercon** (President of Rmn-Grand Palais, France), **Hamady Bocoum** (Director General of the Museum of Black Civilizations, Senegal), **Hervé Barbaret** (Director General of Agence France-Muséums, France), **Manuel Borja-Villel** (Director of Museo Reina Sofia, Spain), and **Yang Zhigang** (Director of the Shanghai Museum, China). Session moderated by **Antonia Carver** (Director of Art Jameel, Saudi Arabia/UAE).
- “*Digital storytelling and knowledge sharing*” case studies, presented by **Lāth Carlson**, (Executive Director, The Museum of the Future, UAE) **Peter Gorgels** (Manager Digital Productions, Rijksmuseum, The Netherlands), **Hilary Knight** (Director of Digital at Tate, UK), **Gene Kogan** (Artist and programmer, USA), **Olivier Mauco** (President, Game in Society, France), **Anna Lowe** (Co-founder, Smartify, UK), and **Sara Bin Safwan** (Curator, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, UAE). Moderated by **David Wrisley** (Associate Professor of Digital Humanities at NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE).
- “*Modelling the future: new business models beyond tourism and the blockbuster show*” roundtable with **HE Saood Al Hosani** (Acting Undersecretary of Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi, UAE), **Françoise Benhamou** (Professor, Sorbonne-Paris Nord University, France), **Frédéric Jousset** (Founder of Art Explora and Webhelp, owner of Beaux Arts Magazine, France), **Max Hollein** (Director of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA), and **Peter Keller** (Director General of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), Austria/France), moderated by **Fiammetta Rocco** (Senior Editor and Culture Correspondent of *The Economist* and *1843*, UK).
- “*Re-thinking the imaginary museum*” keynote by **Jean-Luc Martinez**, Director of Musée du Louvre, France.

Day 2 – Building / Site & People

- *Opening remarks* with **Mariët Westermann** and **Manuel Rabaté**.
- “*The museum as a re-imagined public space*” roundtable, with **Didier Fusillier** (President of La Villette, France), **Eugene Tan** (Director of the National Gallery of Singapore and Singapore Art Museum, Singapore), and **Zeina Arida** (Director of the Sursock Museum, Lebanon), and moderated by **Tim Jones** (Culture Mile Manager, City of London Corporation, UK).

This material is distributed by Brunswick Group LLC on behalf of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi. Additional information is on file with the FARA Registration Unit of the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

- Keynote by **HE Noura Al Kaabi**, Minister of Culture and Youth (UAE).
- *A world history of museums* keynote by historian and philosopher **Krzysztof Pomian** (France)
- *"Museums and empathy: towards new forms of engagement"* case studies, with **Dacher Keltner** (Professor of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley, USA), **Elif M. Gökçığdem** (Founder of Empathy Building Through Museums, Turkey/USA), **Helen Chatterjee** (Professor of Biology, UCL, UK), **Kavita Singh** (Professor at the School of Arts and Aesthetics of Jawaharlal Nehru University, India), **Maral Jule Bedoyan** (Education and Learning Resources Manager, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE), and moderated by **Tom Crow** (Rosalie Solow Professor of Modern Art, NYU and NYUAD, USA/UAE).
- *"Voices of authority: expertise, participation and inclusion in the museum of tomorrow"* roundtable with **Manal Ataya** (Director General of the Sharjah Museums Authority, UAE), **Amareswar Galla** (Professor of Inclusive Cultural Leadership and Director of the International Centre for Inclusive Cultural Leadership (ICICL) and Dean of Faculty Development and Leadership, Anant National University, Ahmedabad, India), **Kaywin Feldman** (Director of the National Gallery of Art, USA), **Laurence Des Cars** (President of the Musée d'Orsay and Musée de l'Orangerie, France), and **Salah M. Hassan** (Director of The Africa Institute and Goldwin Smith Professor of African and African Diaspora Art History and Visual Culture, Cornell University, USA). The session will be moderated by **Emily Kasriel** (Head of Editorial Partnerships and Special Projects at BBC World Service, UK).
- Keynote by **Sandra Jackson-Dumont** (Director and CEO, Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, USA)

Day 3 – People

- *"Museums & archaeological sites: activating the ancient through contemporary in museums"* roundtable with **A. Ege Yildirim** (Urban Planner Specialising in Heritage Conservation, Turkey), **Caroline Autret** (Head of the Department of Archaeology and History of Art at Sorbonne Abu Dhabi, UAE), **Clare Davies** (Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA), **Guilhem André** (Chief curator for Asian and Medieval Arts, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE) and **Peter Magee** (Director of the Zayed National Museum, UAE). The session will be moderated by **Nora Razian** (Head of Exhibitions at Jameel Arts Centre, UAE).
- *"The future of curators"* roundtable with **Reem Fadda** (Director, Cultural Foundation, UAE), **Jessica Morgan** (Director of the Dia Art Foundation, USA), **Rose-Marie Mousseaux** (Chief Curator for Early Modern Art at Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE), **Sophie Makariou** (President of the Musée Guimet, France), and **Thelma Golden** (Director and

This material is distributed by Brunswick Group LLC on behalf of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi. Additional information is on file with the FARA Registration Unit of the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Chief Curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem, USA). The session will be moderated by **Andrew McClellan** (Professor of Art History, Tufts University, USA).

- Closing remarks with **Manuel Rabaté** and **Mariët Westermann**

-END-

Notes to editors

Registration for *Reframing Museums* is live, free, and open to the public [here](#) through 15 November 2020.

Daily symposium programming runs November 16-17 from 11:00 – 21:00 GST; November 18 from 14:30 – 18:30.

Dedicated symposium hashtag: #ReframingMuseums

Symposium curatorial committee: **Anaïs Aguerre** (Founder and Director, Culture Connect), **Maya Allison** (Executive Director of the NYUAD Art Galleries, and the Chief Curator at NYU Abu Dhabi), **Noëmi Daucé** (Curator, Musée du Louvre), **Reindert Falkenburg** (Special Academic Advisor; Visiting Professor of Early Modern Art and Culture, NYU Abu Dhabi), **Salwa Mikdadi** (Associate Professor Practice of Art History, NYU Abu Dhabi), **Souraya Noujaim** (Scientific, Curatorial and Collections Management Director, Louvre Abu Dhabi), **Alia Saeed Alshamsi** (Acting Cultural Programming Manager, Louvre Abu Dhabi), and **Robert Parthesius** (Program Head, Heritage Studies; Associate Professor, NYU Abu Dhabi)

Follow Louvre Abu Dhabi on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) #LouvreAbuDhabi

Follow NYU Abu Dhabi on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) @NYUAbuDhabi

About Louvre Abu Dhabi

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a young, experimental, and mindful museum of the 21st century, reflected through its approach to collecting, programming, and engaging with visitors. The museum's unique curatorial vision facilitates openness, accessibility, and interconnectivity, inviting its diverse audiences to break down barriers and identify cultural connections.

With events like the symposium, Louvre Abu Dhabi explores crucial institutional discussions, convening cultural leaders from around the world to debate current issues and add to the discourse on the role of museums today.

Louvre Abu Dhabi was among the first museums of its caliber to re-open following the closure of cultural sites due to COVID-19 in the Gulf.

About NYU Abu Dhabi

A leading research university with a fully integrated liberal arts and science college, NYU Abu Dhabi prepares students from the UAE and around the globe for the challenges and opportunities of our interconnected world. NYU Abu Dhabi represents a transformative shift

This material is distributed by Brunswick Group LLC on behalf of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi. Additional information is on file with the FARA Registration Unit of the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

in higher education, where intellectual and creative endeavours of academia are shaped and examined through international, multicultural perspectives.

The Arts and Humanities department will soon offer the first-of-its-kind in the region, full-time, studio-intensive Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Art and Media - an interdisciplinary degree program.

The NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery - the region's only university gallery of scholarly and experimental museum exhibitions - The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi, and The NYU Abu Dhabi Institute, bring rigorous and vibrant programming to the Abu Dhabi, adding to the dynamic cultural fabric of the city and creating frameworks for exchange and cross-cultural dialogue and experience.

Through high-caliber arts and culture events like this symposium, along with intellectual discourse, academic programming, student volunteering, and faculty engagement with local institutions, NYU Abu Dhabi is helping to transform the rich intellectual and cultural fabric of Abu Dhabi.

This symposium coincides with the University's tenth anniversary and is spearheaded by Vice Chancellor Mariët Westermann, a historian of Netherlandish Art as well as Professor of Arts and Humanities at NYU Abu Dhabi, who returned to the University in 2019 to lead NYU Abu Dhabi into its second decade.

About Abu Dhabi and Saadiyat Island

In its unwavering support of cultural institutions, the government of Abu Dhabi continues to value its arts and culture institutions as vital to the community.

With an ongoing commitment to creating a global destination for researchers, entrepreneurs, and renowned artists, Abu Dhabi's cultural institutions, as well as the Emirate itself, are uniquely situated to host these important discussions.

The government of the UAE continues its commitment to supporting the development and livelihoods of young, Emirati artistic talent. Recently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implemented an Art in Embassies scheme that saw the government acquire AED 1.5m in art from local galleries for the benefit of its embassies around the world.

Saadiyat Island, a world class leisure, residential, educational, business, and growing cultural hub, already houses NYU Abu Dhabi, Louvre Abu Dhabi, the exhibition centre Manarat Al Saadiyat, and Berklee Abu Dhabi Center.

***Reframing Museums* media partners**



This material is distributed by Brunswick Group LLC on behalf of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi. Additional information is on file with the FARA Registration Unit of the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.